

Amendments to the Claims

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
an alignment layer comprising constituent materials, the constituent materials
having a stoichiometric ratio adjusted by an amount of material, the amount determined to
provide a given pretilt angle; and
liquid crystal material in contact with the alignment layer.

16. (Original): The device as recited in claim 15, wherein the material includes
 SiC_x wherein x is adjusted to provide the stoichiometric relationship.

17. (Previously Presented): The device as recited in claim 15, wherein the
material includes silicon oxynitride.

18. (Previously Presented): The device as recited in claim 15, wherein the
material includes a material having Pi-electrons.

19. (Previously Presented): The device as recited in claim 15, wherein the
alignment layer includes a tilted homeotropic alignment layer.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
an alignment layer comprising constituent materials, the alignment layer having a preexisting pretilt angle;
an amount of material for adjusting a stoichiometric ratio of the constituent materials of the alignment layer, wherein the amount is determined to provide a given pretilt angle of the alignment layer different than the preexisting pretilt angle of the alignment layer; and
liquid crystal material in contact with the alignment layer.

22. (New): The liquid crystal display device of claim 15, further comprising ions directed at the alignment layer provide uniformity of the pretilt angle.

23. (New): The liquid crystal display device of claim 21, further comprising ions directed at the alignment layer provide uniformity of the pretilt angle.

24. (New): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
an alignment layer comprising a first material which provides a homeotropic alignment;
a second material introduced in an amount determined to provide a given pretilt angle to the alignment layer, the second material providing a more homogeneous alignment than the first material; and
liquid crystal material in contact with the alignment layer.

25. (New): The liquid crystal display device of claim 23, further comprising ions directed at the alignment layer to control the uniformity of the pretilt angle.